cooperative partnership. PM underlined the need for developing bilateral relations based on the Panchsheel and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns to resolve our differences.

(c) His interlocutors in Germany were sensitized to our concerns on the need for an immediate cessation of cross-border terrorism. There was unanimous appreciation for Prime Minister's peace initiative.

Russia has repeatedly stated that cross-border terrorism should be ended and that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Chinese President complimented and congratulated the Prime Minister of India on his peace initiative with respect to Pakistan. He said that the Chinese government supported any initiative to ease the situation and hoped that India and Pakistan would resolve their differences through dialogue and by peaceful means to make the situation in South Asia peaceful.

Rehabilitation Work in Iraq by Indian Companies

2641. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian companies have received signals from Iraq for its post war development and rehabilitation;

(b) the names of Government and private Companies which have been doing work in the past in Iraq; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Indian business delegations, under apex trade bodies, have visited Iraq to explore opportunities of securing contracts for trading and projects in Iraq's post-war development and rehabilitation. While there are indications of interest in Indian participation, the results of such contacts may appear only in the future.

(b) and (c) A large number of Government and private companies woked on civil, mechanical and electrical construction contracts in Iraq between 1978 and 1990, including ONGC, RITES, IRCON, NBCC, UPSBC, EIL, L&T, Jai Prakash Industries and several others.

Under the UN *Oil-for-Food* Programme, which expires in November 2003 Indian companies won contracts for suplying a variety of goods and plant and equipment valued at approx. $1.1 billion between 1996-2002.

Visit of Israeli Prime Minister

2642. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the issues proposed to be discussed with the Prime Minister of Israel during his ensuing visit in September, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Israeli Prime Minister is scheduled to pay a State visit to India in September 2003. Although the agenda of the visit is yet to be confirmed, the two sides are expected to discuss the issues of bilateral, regional and international interest.

Indian Nationals stranded in Tripol

2643. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently 73 village youths from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, who got stranded in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, were lured for jobs by M/s Glomat Overseas Associates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) 73 Indian wokers recruited by M/s Glomat Overseas Associates, New Delhi, for a Libyan company, M/s Organisation of Naher At Hayah for Construction and Investments, were stranded in Libya for over three months. They were repatriated to India in July, 2003, on the intervention of the Indian Embassy in Tripoli.

(c)The Libyan company has been blacklisted by the Government of India for recruitment of Indian workers.